

THE LONG HAUL

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Special Edition



Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston took command of the 405th AFSB during the Aug. 9 ceremony.

AFSB-Europe Gets New Commander, Redesignates to 405th AFSB

Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston receives new colors

The Army Field Support Brigade-Europe hosted a change of command and redesignation ceremony on Aug. 9 at Hammond Barracks. During the ceremony, **Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston** took command from **Col. Xavier P. Lobeto**.

Brig. Gen. Scott West, Commander of the 21st Theater Support Command, commanded the ceremony, which was held at the barracks gymnasium due to inclement weather.

During his speech during the ceremony, Pinkston said, "This is the third time I have taken command in Germany. This, in itself, is a blessing, and I feel deeply honored."

West commended both the outgoing and incoming commanders during his speech, thanking them for their service to the Army and expressing his confidence in their leadership.

The ceremony also marked the redesignation of the brigade from the Army Field Support Brigade-Europe to the 405th Army Field Support Brigade. The retired battalion colors were cased during the ceremony, and the new brigade colors were unfurled.

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AFSB Redesignation and Change of Command Ceremony

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Pinkston, during his speech, also expressed his pleasure with his new assignment.

“I am proud to be the commander of this great brigade, the first of its kind in (U.S. Army Europe) and the (European Command) area of operation,” he said. “I look forward to leading it in the coming years.”

During the ceremony, **Lt. Col. Michael Bird**, the outgoing commander from the Army Field Support Battalion-Luxembourg served as the commander of the troops. All of the AFSB battalions were represented. Soldiers from the battalions in Kaiserslautern, Vilseck and Livorno participated in the ceremony.

Kay Vasquez, who works in the 405th AFSB Emergency Operations Center, served as the narrator for the event.



Brig. Gen. Scott West, Commander of the 21st Theater Support Command, served as the ceremony commander during the AFSB redesignation and change of command ceremony. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*



Outgoing commander Col. Xavier P. Lobeto passes the flag to Brig. Gen. Scott West as Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Baxter stand at attention. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*

NEWS



Lt. Col. Ronnie Bell Jr. took command of the 1st Battalion, 405th AFSB during an activation and assumption of command ceremony on Aug. 4.

1st Battalion Activated at Kaiserslautern, Germany

Lt. Col. Ronnie Bell Jr. Assumes Command of New Battalion

The 405th AFSB activated the 1st Battalion at Kaiserslautern, Germany, at a ceremony on Aug. 4 during which **Lt. Col. Ronnie Bell Jr.** assumed command.

The activation of the command, which supports the U.S. Army Materiel Command's (AMC) implementation of the Army's European Transformation, illustrates the 405th AFSB's execution of the transformation and its support of the global repositioning initiative.

The ceremony was commanded by **Col. Xavier P. Lobeto**, the recently departed AFSB commander.

As part of the ceremony, during which the new battalion colors were unfurled, Bell told the large assembled crowd that he was excited about this assignment.

"I am thrilled to be here to take command of this new battalion," he said. "This occasion fills me with excitement and optimism....I am fortunate to be a part of the Army on this momentous occasion."

The 1st Battalion has a unique mission to oversee command and control of all AMC operational logistics assets and capabilities in both the Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden Joint Military Operating Bases. It will plan, source and execute command and control of Brigade Logistics Support Team readiness support to rotational Brigade Combat Teams and direct AMC capabilities to optimize sustainment and deliver logistics assistance to Army and Joint forces engaged in training and theater security cooperation missions. On order, it will provide expeditionary logistics support for the Army and Joint forces engaged in the European Command Area of Operations and provide command and control of sustaining base functions of maintenance, supply and ammunitions.

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1st Battalion Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremony

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Col. Xavier P. Lobeto holds the flag as Lt. Col. Ronnie Bell Jr. unfurls the new colors of the 1st Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade at Kaiserslautern, Germany. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*



Lt. Col. Ronnie Bell Jr. addresses the Kaiserslautern community during his first act as battalion commander during the activation ceremony. *Photo by Michael Richter, 405th AFSB (Mantech).*



Rob Kuiper, NL POMS, addressed the crowd during the deactivation ceremony. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*

AFSBn-Eygelshoven Has Deactivation Ceremony

U.S. Army Operations to Cease No Later than Sept. 30

During a somber ceremony on Aug. 2, the Army Field Support Battalion-Eygelshoven (AFSBn-EY) had a deactivation ceremony that included the casing of the colors in Eygelshoven, the Netherlands. Under the military's global restructuring plan, U.S. Army operations at the site will cease no later than Sept. 30.

The ceremony, which was commanded by **Lt. Col. Michael Bird**, then commander of the Army Field Support Battalion-Luxembourg, was held at the facility canteen.

During the ceremony, **Rick Haines Jr.**, AFSBn-EY Civilian Executive Assistant, addressed the audience of both American and Dutch attendees.

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Eygelshoven Deactivation Ceremony

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During his speech, Haines emphasized the long support and dedication of the Dutch nationals who were employed by the site.

“It is my fervent hope that as the U.S. Army ceases operations here, our long and enduring camaraderie with the Dutch people will not end,” he said. “We value you as our friends and salute you as our Allies.”

Haines also noted that a large part of the success at the facility could be attributed to the dedication and commitment of the Dutch national workforce.

“I would like to sincerely thank you for your commitment, your cooperation, your dedication, and most of all, your unwavering support to the U.S. Army over the past 22 years,” he stated.

Rob Kuiper, NL POMS, also addressed the audience with a somber and moving speech as he noted that the closure of the site in Eygelshoven marks the end of U.S. Army Prepositioned Stocks in the Netherlands.

AFSBn-EY, the closure of which was announced on May 18, is almost through packing up its equipment and moving out of the site. The closure impacts eight military, 13 Department of the Army civilians, and 28 host nation positions. Also affected are 144 host nation contractor employees of the Dutch Ministry of Defense.



Lt. Col. Michael Bird (left) and Master Sgt. Mark Beckett role the AFSBn-EY colors in preparation for casing as Chief Warrant Officer Samuel Rodriguez holds the staff. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*

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Luxembourg Battalion Deactivates

*Site to Cease Operations No Later
Than Sept. 30*

On the appropriately overcast morning of Aug. 4, the Army Field Support Battalion-Luxembourg (AFSB-LU) held a deactivation ceremony during which **Lt. Col. Michael Bird** cased the battalion colors and bid farewell. The Army Field Support Company-Rhine Ordnance Barracks also cased its colors during the ceremony as the company was deactivated along with AFSBn-LU.

During his remarks, Bird expressed his gratitude for the assignment in Luxembourg.

"I have been deeply honored to be the last battalion commander in a long line of exceptionally talented commanders of this great unit," he said. "This unit has continued to exceed all standards in every assigned mission and then do more.

"As sad as it may be to see this unit come to an end, what will not end is the goodness, accomplishment and friendships; they will endure forever in the hearts and minds of all..." he continued.



Lt. Col. Michael Bird addresses the audience in his last act as battalion commander. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*

The deactivation ceremony marked the end of 27 years of U.S. Army activities in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Although the unit changed names and affiliations many times, its reputation of professionalism and dedication never faltered.

Col. Xavier P. Lobeto, the recently outgoing commander of the 405th AFSB, served as the commander of the ceremony and also addressed the gathered crowd.

"The history of this site and the people who have labored here are closely connected in service and friendship," he said, speaking warmly of the long and friendly relationship between the U.S. and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. "(The host nation workforce) have served us with a diligence and dedication that speaks volumes about both you and your country."

The site will cease operations no later than Sept. 30 and is already well on its way to clearing all U.S. Army equipment from the facility.

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Lt. Col. Michael Bird rolls the colors for their casing during the deactivation ceremony at AFSBn-LU. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*



Col. Xavier P. Lobeto and Lt. Col. Michael Bird exchange the cased colors, marking the symbolic end of operations at AFSB-LU. *Photo by Faleuamea Onosai, 405th AFSB Protocol Officer.*

Upcoming Events

Sept. 15—AFSB-LI Redesignation Ceremony

Sept. 29—AFSB-HY Deactivation Ceremony

THE LONG HAUL

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